

PENNSYLVANIA.

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PROCEEDINGS

OF A

MEETING OF CITIZENS OF ROXBOROUGH TOWNSHIP,

*In relation to the Currency.*

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JUNE 26, 1834.

Read, and laid upon the table.

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At a very numerous and respectable meeting of the democratic citizens of Roxborough township, including the villages of Roxborough and Manayunk, held, agreeably to public notice, at the Leverington hotel, Saturday evening, May 31st, 1834, George W. Smick, Esq., was chosen President, and Michael Levering, Henry Rex, George Moyer, Henry Root, of Roxborough, and C. V. Hagner, Amos Phillips, Michael Snyder, and George H. Beamer, M. D., of Manayunk, Vice Presidents, and John Levering, Joseph Gilkeson, and William Gilmore, Secretaries.

The chairman having stated the object of the meeting, it was found necessary, in consequence of the crowded state of the house, (many outside being unable to gain admission,) to adjourn to the yard.

A call was then made upon N. Nathans, Esq., late of Roxborough township, to address the meeting, who, in an eloquent and forcible manner, tempered with moderation, made a powerful appeal, which was heartily responded to by all present. After which, the committee appointed for that purpose at a former meeting, reported the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted :

Whereas, in the exercise of one of our invaluable and unalienable rights, and in the performance of a duty we owe to the legally constituted authorities of our country, and to our immediate representatives in Congress, we, the democratic citizens of Roxborough township, Philadelphia county, have assembled together for the purpose of making known to them our views and sentiments in relation to matters now before them :

And whereas the startling and frightful assumptions, abuses, and corruptions of the United States Bank, its meddling interference, secretly and openly, with the politics of the country, its purchase of presses, its large loans to editors, upon such securities, and on such time, as no merchant could borrow, entirely unprecedented in ordinary mercantile and banking transactions, the prevarications, finesse, and refined and petty quibbles, to avoid an examination into its affairs, the refusal of the directors to be sworn, and to produce its books, its studied and glaring insults,

and its high-toned aristocratic contempt evinced towards the Chief Magistrate of the Union and the House of Representatives, and through them to the American people, imperiously demand an expression of our opinions on the subject: Therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That lamentable experience has proved, beyond all doubt, that the United States Bank, with its immense moneyed power, is an institution decidedly hostile to the liberties, independence, and free institutions of our country, and ought not, under any circumstances, to be re-chartered.

*Resolved*, That we look to the blessings of Providence, to our own industry, and to the free institutions left us by our patriot fathers, as the true sources of American happiness; and any system that interferes with, or subjects the welfare of our country, directly or indirectly, to the whims and caprices of irresponsible bank directors, over whom we have no control, is radically wrong, and ought to be corrected forthwith.

*Resolved*, That our much abused and grossly slandered patriot President deserves and will receive the gratitude of the American people, for his able and manly defence and support of true American principles. That all the measures pursued by him in reference to the United States Bank meet our decided approbation; and that he may rest assured that the "notorious patriotism of Pennsylvania" will never forsake him in any contest between a haughty, presumptuous, and imperious moneyed corporation, and the legally constituted authorities of the country.

*Resolved*, That we do most heartily respond to and adopt the sentiment uttered by our worthy Chief Magistrate in his celebrated protest, "that it is not in a splendid Government, supported by monopolies and aristocratical establishments, that the American people will find happiness, and their liberties protection; but in a plain system, void of pomp, protecting all, and granting favors to none; dispensing its blessings like the dews of Heaven, unseen and unfelt, save in the freshness and beauty they contribute to produce."

*Resolved*, That the present and almost annual pressure we have been subject to for years past, is owing to the wretched banking system of the country, and an erroneous departure from first principles in the currency—the principles laid down in the constitution; and that the Senators and Representatives in Congress, who are now so manfully struggling to bring us back to those first principles, deserve and will receive the thanks of a grateful people.

*Resolved*, That we approve of the course pursued by the committee of the House of Representatives appointed to inquire into the transactions of the United States Bank; and consider the refusal of its directors to submit to the inquiry, a strong, presumptive proof (if proof were wanted) of the charges of misconduct made against that institution.

*Resolved*, That we highly approve of the firm and manly stand taken by George Wolf, Governor of Pennsylvania, against the attempts made to coerce and embarrass his administration, and also in his determination to oppose the chartering of any new banks; for which purpose, we recommend to him a free use of the "veto power," should our representatives continue so lost to the interests and opinions of the large body of their constituents, as to institute any more of these "paper manufactories."

*Resolved*, That we consider the right of instruction to be the great land-

mark of democracy and republicanism; that the representatives of the people are their servants, not their masters; and that they who abandon these principles, and presumingly set up their own wills in opposition to those they represent, are no more worthy of trust, and should never be forgotten by the people.

*Resolved*, That the Hon. Wm. C. Rives, of Virginia, and late of the Senate, in his practical acknowledgment of the right of instruction, has shown himself to be a true disciple of the Jefferson school, and worthy of receiving future honors.

*Resolved*, That we highly approve of the conduct of our Representative in Congress from this district, the Hon. Joel B. Sutherland, in his firm and manly support of the administration in the present crisis, and for the many and powerful exertions made by him in advocating the interests of this township, for which he has received so few thanks from those most interested.

*Resolved*, That if the effect produced, directly or indirectly, by large manufacturing establishments, which have so long received the fostering care of Government, is to enslave the minds of the citizens employed in them; and if they are, through fear or favor, to be led in mass to public meetings, jubilees, &c., contrary to their own convictions, thus giving a false direction to their real views and sentiments; and if, for the free exercise of the invaluable right of suffrage, a right sacred to every American citizen, and for which our patriot fathers sacrificed so much, they are to be proscribed and turned out of employment, it is high time for the American people "to count their cost," and to inquire whether such establishments are the best preservatives of our free institutions.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this meeting be presented to N. Nathans, Esq. for his able and lucid address to this meeting.

*Resolved*, That a copy of the proceedings of this meeting be transmitted to our Senators and Representatives in Congress, and be published in all the democratic papers of Philadelphia, the Germantown Telegraph, and the Globe of the city of Washington.

After the above resolutions were adopted, Samuel Ogden, a venerable and interesting old man, between 70 and 80 years of age, addressed the meeting, and stated that he had been many years in this country, and for the last twenty years a citizen; that during that time he has never voted or meddled with politics; but having read and informed himself thoroughly in reference to the course pursued by the present Chief Magistrate, the firm stand taken by him in defence of the people against the operations of the mammoth bank and would-be nobility of the country, he could not refrain from expressing his opinions on the subject, and joining in support of the President of the United States and his patriotic measures, for which his daughters, upon whom he, and their aged mother, chiefly depend for support, have been, without previous notice, discharged from employment in one of the factories in Manayunk.

On motion, the meeting adjourned.

GEORGE W. SMICK, *President*.

MICHAEL LEVERING, HENRY REX, GEORGE MOYER, HENRY ROOT, CHARLES V. HAGNER, AMOS PHILLIPS, MICHAEL SNYDER, GEORGE H. BEAMER, M. D., *Vice Presidents*.

JOHN LEVERING, JOSEPH GILKESON, WM. GILMORE, *Secretaries*.

